

# **Requirements for Riparian Forest Buffer Incentive**

## **Incentive Payment for Maintenance of Riparian Corridors Established as a Result of Permanent Fencing for Livestock Exclusion EQIP Tennessee FY2008**

### **Eligibility**

Producers are eligible for this incentive payment for 3 years when they have:

- Established permanent fencing through EQIP for livestock exclusion from perennial and intermittent streams;
- And have backed the fence a minimum of 35 feet from the streambank (top bank);
- And have not received cost-share from another program for the establishment of the buffer area;
- And plant or promote through natural regeneration, the establishment of trees and shrubs in the buffer zone.

### **Activity Required**

The following activities are required for the incentive payment:

- The riparian forest buffer area, whether planted or natural regeneration will be inspected periodically to assure no adverse impacts are affecting healthy growth and establishment. Adverse impacts may include excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, pesticide damage from adjoining fields, livestock accidental access, excessive wildlife damage, and fire. Appropriate action is taken to correct the impact to the buffer development and growth.
- Planted trees or shrubs which have died will be replaced and control of undesirable vegetative competition will be continued until the buffer is, or will progress to, a fully functional "free to grow" forested condition. Established trees and shrubs should be at a 12' X 12' spacing (302 stems per acre). Natural regeneration and plantings will be managed to result in 200 stems per acre at the end of 3 years. All maintenance is the responsibility of the participant.
- Where the buffer is adjacent to eroding cropland (pasture/crop rotation), concentrated flow erosion and sediment deposition will be controlled by leaving an adjacent strip of grass to serve as a filter.

- The use of pesticides to assure buffer establishment and maintenance will be the minimum necessary to assure success in the establishment period.

## **Payment Rate**

\$55 per acre of total buffer area established as a result of the permanent fencing for livestock exclusion.

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## **Incentive Payment for Maintenance of Riparian Herbaceous Cover Established as a Result of Permanent Fencing for Livestock Exclusion EQIP Tennessee FY2008**

### **Eligibility**

Producers are eligible for this incentive payment for 3 years when they have:

- Established permanent fencing through EQIP for livestock exclusion from perennial and intermittent streams;
- And have backed the fence a minimum of 1.5 times the stream width at top bank;
- And have not received cost-share from another program for the establishment of the buffer area;
- And have established native grasses in the buffer zone.

### **Activity Required**

The following activities are required for the incentive payment:

- The buffer area will be inspected periodically to assure no adverse impacts are affecting healthy growth and establishment and establishment of the grasses. Adverse impacts may include excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, pesticide damage from adjoining fields, livestock accidental access, excessive wildlife damage, and fire. Appropriate action is taken to correct the impact to the grass buffer development and growth.
- Planted grass which has been destroyed or did not survive planting will be re-established. Introduced grasses will be destroyed prior to planting of natives. All maintenance is the responsibility of the participant.
- The use of the native grass buffer for limited haying and grazing will be delayed until the desired plant community is well established. Grazing should be limited to short periods to

remove half of the available forage (minimum 6" height). Grazing will not occur during periods of high soil saturation or expected rainfall to prevent damage to the buffer area and streambank.

- The streambank slopes will be allowed to naturally regenerate in native trees and shrubs.
- Where the buffer is adjacent to eroding cropland (pasture/crop rotation), concentrated flow erosion and sediment deposition will be controlled by leaving an adjacent strip of grass to serve as a filter before water enters the native grass buffer.
- The use of pesticides to assure native grass buffer establishment and maintenance will be the minimum necessary to assure success in the establishment period and for maintenance.

### **Payment Rate**

\$35 per acre of total buffer area established to native grass as a result of the permanent fencing for livestock exclusion.